Pending cases of mercy petitions

826. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mercy petitions from the persons awarded death punishment received by Government during the last five year;

(b) in how many cases, death sentence has been waived/converted into the imprisonment; and

(c) what is the number of petitions still pending for consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Twenty seven mercy petitions from the condemned prisoners or others on their behalf in the fourteen criminal cases were received by the Government during the last five years;

(b) Nil.

(c) Forty (including aforesaid twenty seven) mercy petitions of the condemned prisoners have been submitted to the President of India.

Damages caused by land mines along indo-Pak border

827. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Common Citizens are either losing their lives or suffering disability in the Indian territory falling along Pakistan border due to not undertaking the clearing work of these land mines properly;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate compensation has not been paid to them for damages caused due to land mines/loss of catties;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any rehabilitation scheme for residents of affected areas has been processed; and

(e) if so, what corrective measured have been taken to provide relief security to civilian population till date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Mine laying activities are an intrinsic part of the Army's operational philosophy and are guided by operational considerations for ensuring territorial integrity. Laying of mines and- demining is carried out in